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OCI No. 1759/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
14 May 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Insurgency in Southeast Asia

1. Laos

a. The Pathet Lao rejection of Souvanna Phouma's proposal for a meeting at Luang Prabang, the continued absence of most of the Pathet Lao leadership from Vientiane, the intensification of bloc propaganda on Laos, and growing bloc demands for the reconvening of the Geneva conference indicate that the Communists have little interest in a negotiated settlement or the continued functioning of the coalition government. There has been additional evidence also that the USSR will not use what influence it may have to moderate the attitude of the North Vietnamese or Pathet Lao, and there has been an increase in overt Soviet propaganda support of the Pathet Lao.

b. These developments reinforce the likelihood that the Communists are preparing to renew military action on a larger scale. They may hope to place the onus for such action on the Kong Le forces, which are preparing--in cooperation with the FAR and Meo forces--for a series of attacks to retake lost positions in the Plaine des Jarres area. These attacks may get under way within the next week. In addition to reported Pathet Lao and North Vietnamese reinforcement of the area around the town of Xieng Khouang and the Plaine des Jarres, the Communists appear to be making a determined effort to ensure control of their main overland supply route from North Vietnam into the area.

c. In other areas, particularly in south-central Laos and in the Vang Vieng area north of Vientiane, the Communists appear to have moved forces into positions for possible attacks on FAR and neutralist units. A renewal of larger scale action in Xieng Khouang Province thus could lead to an intensification of Communist military action in other areas as well.

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2. South Vietnam

There has been no significant change in the security situation in South Vietnam during the past week.

3. Thailand

There has been no significant development in the Thai security situation during the past week.

4. Cambodia

4. There has been no significant development in the security situation in Cambodia during the past week.

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